

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CPR-02 L-03 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02

HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 JUSE-00 DODE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 MCT-01 H-01

A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00 FBIE-00 /079 W

-----033784 232322Z /70

O 232310Z JUN 78 ZFF-4

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2234

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02640

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, RP

SUBJECT: INCIDENT AT PHILIPPINE CENTER, NEW YORK CITY

REF: MANILA 10641 AND PREVIOUS

1. AT REQUEST AMB LEONARD, WE MET WITH AMB YANGO (ACTING PERM REP) AND DEPUTY VALDERRAMA. IN ORDER BE AS HELPFUL TO PHILS AS POSSIBLE WE ASKED NYC POLICE COMMISSIONER MC GUIRE AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CONBOY TO ACCOMPANY US TO MEETING AND THEY WILLINGLY DID SO.

2. AMB LEONARD OPENED MEETING BY INTRODUCING COMMISSIONER MC GUIRE AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CONBOY AND ASKED HOW WE COULD BE HELPFUL. AMB YANGO SAID COMPLAINT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS COMITE AND IT UP TO THAT COMITE.

3. YANGO FURTHER INDICATED THAT HE HAD THOUGHT PHILIPPINE CONSUL GENERAL HAD SOUGHT MEETING WITH POLICE COMMISSIONER AND BEEN DENIED. COMMISSIONER MC GUIRE SAID HE WILLING MEET WITH CONSUL GENERAL AT ANY TIME, BUT HE NOT AWARE CONSUL GENERAL HAD SOUGHT MEETING.

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4. QUESTION OF POLICE REPORT CAME UP AND COMMISSIONER MC GUIRE SAID ONLY ITEM HOLDING UP REPORT WAS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH MEMBERS OF PHILIPPINE SIDE WHO COULD PRESENT FACTS AS THEY SAW THEM. AFTER CHECKING WITH CONSUL GENERAL, YANGO SAID PHILIPPINE SIDE WOULD NOT MAKE THE PERSONS IN QUESTION AVAILABLE. YANGO SAID THIS

INFO HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM YESTERDAY. COMMISSIONER MC GUIRE SAID THAT HE COULD NOW COMPLETE HIS REPORT AND WOULD DELIVER IT TO USUN JUNE 24. (USUN WILL NIACT COPY TO DEPT AND MANILA).

5. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION, WE INDICATED THAT WE WERE SURPRISED THAT PHILIPPINE MISSION HAD SOUGHT TO RAISE THIS MATTER IN HOST COUNTRY COMITE RATHER THAN WORK IT OUT WITH US BILATERALLY. WE NOTED THAT REASON WE WERE SURPRISED WAS THAT AS A RULE ONLY MISSIONS WHICH WANTED TO STIR UP TROUBLE FOR US OR HAVE FUN AT OUR EXPENSE OR MISSIONS WHICH FELT THEY COULD NOT TALK DIRECTLY TO US TOOK MATTERS TO HOST COUNTRY COMITE. YANGO SOUGHT TO EMPHASIZE FACT HE NOT HAVING FUN. AMB LEONARD SAID WE KNEW THAT AND WERE THUS ALL THE MORE PUZZLED WHY THEY WANTED TO WASH THIS LINEN IN PUBLIC. YANGO SAID HE WAS FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS FOREIGN MINISTER.

6. MEETING ENDED AMICABLE IF WITHOUT ANY PROGRESS HAVING BEEN MADE.

7. IN SEPARATE SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION COMMISSIONER MC GUIRE TOLD AMB LEONARD AND MISOFFS THAT HE CONVINCED POLICE ARE TELLING ACCURATE STORY. HE SAID POLICE DID NOT GO ABOVE GROUND FLOOR (MISSION AND CONSULATE LOCATED ON UPPER FLOORS), NO RIFLING OF DESKS OR PAPERS, NO UNDUE FORCE
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USED, AND NO PISTOL WHIPPING. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN BODY SEARCHES OF THE FOUR PERSONS TAKEN TO POLICE PRECINCT AS WAS STANDARD PROCEDURE IN ALL CASES WHERE THERE IS REASON BELIEVE DANGEROUS WEAPON INVOLVED. MC GUIRE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT PUBLIC DISCUSSION IN HOST COUNTRY COMITE LIKELY TO BE EMBARRASSING TO PHILIPPINES AND NOT TO NY POLICE DEPT.

8. COMMENT; RECORD AND REPUTATION OF MC GUIRE AND CONBOY IS SUCH THAT THEIR CONCLUSIONS AS TO CORRECTNESS OF POLICE CONDUCT ENTITLED TO GREAT DEAL OF RESPECT AND SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS PARTISAN EFFORT TO PROTECT POLCE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN OVERZEALOUS.

9. CONDUCT OF YANGO THROUGHOUT MEETING WAS THAT OF MAN WHO FELT HIMSELF IN VERY UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION AND DID NOT WISH TO BE DRAWN BEYOND ASSERTION THAT HE ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, POLICE FORCES, SHOW OF FORCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02640
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-0072
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780624/aaaaaumu.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7f401782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 10641
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2220971
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT AT PHILIPPINE CENTER, NEW YORK CITY
TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7f401782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014